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Memoir

OF

JACOB HARSEN, M.D.

READ BEFORE THE

New-York Academy of Medicine,

JUNE 1, 1864.

BY

JOHN G. ADAMS, M.D.

IN MEMORIAM

(1864)

[New-York 1864]

TO THE

SURVIVING SISTERS,

This Memorial

OF AN AFFECTIONATE AND CHERISHED BROTHER

IS,

WITH SINCERE SYMPATHY,

INSCRIBED.

Memoir.

— ••• —

Mr. President and Fellows of the Academy: The memory of a good man's life is the richest legacy which he can leave behind him; to his family, no accumulation of the gifts of fortune can equal this bequest; to his friends and associates, no monument can be more enduring or more beautiful. We have met this evening, to deplore the loss and to honor the memory of one of our associates, who has been called away from a happy life, pleasant and useful employments, and this world of probation, in the midst of an honorable career. Let us, then, for a brief period, turn aside from our ordinary occupations, and recall some of the most prominent events in his history, set forth the distinguishing traits of his character, and cast a few fresh flowers over his untimely grave.

The recollections of our deceased Fellow are full of interest to all who knew him. He has been summoned away in the prime of life, with faculties unimpaired, with purposes unaccomplished, and in the full enjoyment of all that could make life to be desired. He possessed, in an eminent degree, the esteem of his fel-

low-men, while he dispensed the fortune with which a kind Providence had blessed him, with a liberal hand, in the promotion of the great interests of science and humanity. How were we shocked at the intelligence, on the morning of the new year, that JACOB HARSEN was numbered among the dead! Who, among his contemporaries, had a fairer prospect of lengthened years, of enduring even unto old age? Who, among ourselves, was more assiduously engaged in works of benevolence? If the enjoyment of life is enhanced by the abundance of our possessions, who amongst us had larger promise of continued happiness?

But the dark shadow has passed over him, and he is gone—that noble form lies low in the dust; we shall see his face no more for ever. Such is the vanity of all earthly hopes and aspirations—such is human life. Well saith the royal preacher, the inspired King of Israel—the wisest, the wealthiest, the most honored and fortunate of men:

"Vanity of vanities; all is vanity."

Well saith, also, the Roman poet and satirist, of all the human race:

"Pulvis sumus, et umbra, et nihil."

The family of JACOB HARSEN was, on both sides, of unmixed Knickerbocker descent, his ancestors having been among the early Dutch settlers of the colony of New-York.

From the family records we learn that JOHANNES HARSEN, great-grandfather of JACOB, was born in February, 1714, and that, in May, 1743, he intermarried with MARGARET COENHOVEN, who died in the same year. On March tenth, 1749, he took to wife RACHEL DYCKMAN, by whom he had seven children: she died in July, 1772.

JACOBUS HARSEN, grandfather of JACOB, was the eldest of the family of four sons and three daughters. He was born in March, 1750, and intermarried with CATHARINE COZINE, on July twentieth, 1773. The COZINE family immigrated to this city in 1684, and soon became possessed of a large landed property in the suburbs, the original title to which was confirmed by patent from the Duke of York. This estate extended from both the North and East Rivers, sixty English roods in width, by two hundred and fifty roods in length, counting from high-water mark; thence northwardly, including the Bloomingdale Road, (which was at that time private property, and which never has been ceded to the city authorities,) the entire property comprising about one hundred and twenty-two acres, in the neighborhood of the village of Harsenville. The DYCKMAN family, before alluded to, were also owners of an adjoining tract, of similar extent. The greater part of this landed estate, on the death of his grandfather, passed into the possession of our deceased friend. It may also be stated, in this connection, that the name of both HARSEN and COZINE is, in the male line, now extinct.

Jacobus Harsen died at Harsenville, in 1835, at an advanced age. He was a man of influence, of strong will, and decided character. As City Magistrate and Alderman, he discharged his official duties with great fidelity, at a time when office was honorable, and honest principles a recommendation for office. He was also a prominent and consistent member of the Reformed Dutch Church, having been, for a long period, a Ruling Elder. The spacious edifice of that denomination at Harsenville, erected in 1818, owes its origin and principal support to his liberality.

Cornelius Harsen, father of Dr. Harsen, was born in November, 1783. In November, 1805, he intermarried with Joanna Henrietta Ritter, of an old Knickerbocker family, whose records extend back for two hundred years in this city. Eight children were the fruit of this marriage. Mr. Harsen (Colonel Harsen, as he was ordinarily called) was a man of note in his day, and of genial, social temperament. During the war of 1812, he served as colonel of artillery in the New-York State Militia, having charge of the forts for the defence of the harbor. In all the relations of life he was highly esteemed as a man and a citizen. He died of phthisis, in October, 1838. His wife, who survived him five years, also died of phthisis. Mrs. Harsen was a devoted mother, a most notable housewife, of the true Holland type; distinguished for her charities, she was esteemed by all who knew her. She was remarkable for great personal attractions, no less than for the purity and benevolence of her character.

Jacob Harsen, M.D., the second child of this marriage, was born in this city, on February 16th, 1808. His early years were spent in Bloomingdale, (now Harsenville,) five miles from the City Hall, and at the age of eight years he was sent to the Bloomingdale Academy—a celebrated school in those days, under the care of the Rev. Hezekiah G. Ufford. After two years, Mr. Ufford was succeeded by Mr. John Moir, of Edinburgh, who was distinguished as a classical teacher. It was at this period, in 1815, that our acquaintance with Dr. Harsen commenced. We were members of the same class, and were more intimately acquainted in consequence of the summer residences of our parents being in the same neighborhood. We well remember him as a rosy-cheeked boy, full of fun and frolic, amiable in his disposition, always neat and tidy in his person, and with as much love of study as is usually found in boys of that age.

The school having been discontinued in 1818, it was decided to place Jacob under the charge of Mr. John Walsh, at that time in high repute as a teacher, with a view to his preparation for college. He continued with Mr. Walsh until the fall of 1821, and, in October of that year he was admitted to the Freshman Class in Columbia College, taking a respectable rank for scholarship. After passing through the usual terms of his collegiate course, he graduated in July, 1825. Dr. George P. Cammann, whose recent loss we so much deplore, was his fellow-classmate.

Having selected medicine as a profession, he, in

October, 1825, entered, as pupil, the office of Dr. Alexander H. Stevens, who, at that time, was in the zenith of his professional career, both as a general practitioner, as one of the surgeons of the New-York Hospital, and subsequently, in 1826, as Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery, in the College of Physicians and Surgeons. During the last year of his preparatory course, our friend was most assiduously devoted to his studies, and in his attendance upon the office examinations, so much so, that the late Dr. Dwight Harris, then in charge of this department, had frequent occasion to compliment the candidate on his excellent preparation for the approaching ordeal: and the result proved the correctness of his opinion. He received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in March, 1829.

His venerable preceptor, Dr. Stevens, writes: "My memories of Dr. Harsen, during his pupilage, are quite fresh. I honored his frank and truthful character, the clearness and distinctness of his mental faculties, the cautiousness with which he drew his conclusions, and the outspoken fearlessness with which he supported them."

After graduation, he continued to live at home, and opened an office at his father's residence, in Greenwich street, near to Charlton street, devoting himself to the relief of the suffering poor in his neighborhood. He, however, like many young men of large expectations, soon became discouraged in the pursuit of his profession, after some familiarity with its trials and vexa-

tions, and he gradually abandoned the idea of general practice. He was, however, always ready to lend assistance in the care of the sick and distressed. During the prevalence of the first epidemic cholera, in 1832, he sought and obtained, from the Medical Council, the appointment of District Physician to the Eighth Ward, rendering, by his personal efforts during that most trying period, incalculable service to the community. We find, on consulting the records of the Council, that of the five physicians appointed from the Eighth Ward, Dr. HARSEN performed the largest amount of labor, and served for the longest term. His heart was ever open to the call of suffering humanity, his judgment in medical, as in all other matters, clear and deliberate, and, as an intimate associate remarked to us, "had the Doctor never enjoyed any patrimony from the day on which he received his diploma, and had he been dependent upon his own labor for his support, he would have been an acquisition and an ornament to his profession."

On the death of his grandfather, in 1835, Dr. HARSEN was enabled to carry out his long-cherished design of visiting the Old World. In company with a friend, he made an extensive tour through Great Britain and on the Continent, visiting Russia, and afterward Algeria, then a "*terra incognita*" to American tourists. It was our good fortune to meet with our old friend on board of the steamer at Lyons, and there, in a land of strangers, to revive the associations of early days. We recalled the scenes of our college life, with memories of our merry freaks as students in the office

of our preceptor, or within the gloomy walls of old Barclay street College. After spending the night together, in the classical city of Avignon, we parted company at early morning, his face being turned toward Algeria.

Returning home after a year's absence, he was shocked to find his father in declining health. With filial piety he devoted himself to his care, taking his father's place in the family, and watching over him by night and by day, until his death.

He now felt the responsibility of the head of a family, and discharged its duties with most scrupulous fidelity. The health of his mother soon became a source of anxiety to her family; there were symptoms of the same inexorable disease to which the father had fallen a victim. Slowly and steadily, as these continued to progress, she was watched over by her son with filial tenderness and devotion, and after lingering many months, she was laid by the side of her husband. Thus, in the most intimate relations of life, more especially as a son and a brother, was he most considerate, most affectionate and self-sacrificing.

After the death of his parents he came into full possession of the large landed estate to which we have before alluded. Having observed the effect of wealth, suddenly acquired by inheritance, upon the character and conduct of young men, as tending, for the most part, to produce habits of luxurious self-indulgence, with all the evils attendant thereupon, and having witnessed among his own circle of acquaintance, many melancholy instances of substance "wasted

in riotous living," with blasted health and premature decay, he solemnly formed the resolution to live for a higher purpose. Accordingly we find him, from this period, connecting himself with various public and benevolent institutions.

In January, 1842, he was elected one of the Managers of the Northern Dispensary. During a period of twenty years he, with great fidelity, watched over its interests, and contributed liberally to its support. At various times he had the honor of being elected President of the Board of Managers, which office he filled at the time of his decease. This institution, during a long series of years, has been productive of incalculable good to the suffering poor of that section of the city.

On the organization of the St. Nicholas Society, in 1835, he early enrolled his name on the list of members. In company with Stuyvesant, Verplanck, Irving, Brevoort, Fish, and other honored names of New-York, he labored for its advancement, and ever evinced a deep interest in its prosperity. The Society showed its appreciation of his services by electing him one of its Attending Physicians, in 1843, '44, and '45; and in 1859, '60, and '62, he was honored with the office of Vice-President. As is well known, this Society was founded for the purpose of perpetuating the memory of old New-York families, and their descendants, and no living citizen took a more intelligent pride in the history, character, growth, and greatness of his native city than did our departed friend. To demonstrate his philanthropic spirit, we here might, if it were neces-

sary, enumerate all the public institutions with which he had been connected during the last twenty years; suffice it to say, that at the time of his decease he was a Director in not less than eight Associations, and in all of them a most efficient member. He did not seek office; neither when elected did he regard it as an empty honor, to be enjoyed without labor or responsibility, but was ever distinguished by his punctuality, and a zealous discharge of his official duties. In the New-York Eye Infirmary, the Society for the Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men, (in both of which he was Vice-President,) as a Trustee and member of the Council of this Academy, he was eminently useful. When the cloud of war began to overshadow our happy land, he was foremost in his endeavors to relieve the sufferings of our sick and wounded soldiers, by his purse, as well as by his counsels.

On the thirtieth of April, 1859, Dr. Harsen addressed a communication to the Trustees of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, announcing his intention to found an *Annual Prize* of a gold medal, of the value of fifty dollars, together with the sum of one hundred dollars in money, to be awarded for the best written report of Clinical Instruction, at the New-York Hospital, and, at the same time, engaging to defray the expense of a die for the medal. On the twentieth May, 1860, he again writes to the Board of Trustees that, "believing that an enlargement of the fund established by me to promote the study of medical and surgical practice in the New-York Hospital, would more completely fulfil the objects sought to be attained, I have

increased the amount of said fund, to enable the committee to award *two additional Prizes*, consisting of a silver medal, with fifty dollars in money, and a bronze medal, with twenty-five dollars in money." This most liberal offer met with the most cordial coöperation of the Board of Trustees, and their hearty thanks were tendered to the donor. The services of an artist of great merit, Mr. Müller, were secured, and under the auspices and good taste of the Committee,* a die was designed and completed, which is an honor to American art. The medal bears, on its obverse, a head of the donor; on its reverse, is represented a clinical group, at the New-York Hospital; both after photographs from life. Dr. Harsen, at the suggestion of the Faculty, adopted the plan of a bronze medal for each prize, and the respective sums of one hundred and fifty, of seventy-five, and of twenty-five dollars, in money, to designate the order of merit. He had the satisfaction of witnessing the successful carrying out of his purpose, and was present at the first distribution of the prizes of the Harsen Fund. The fund now amounts to three thousand five hundred dollars.

But this was not the only instance of his regard for his *Alma Mater*. It is now no violation of confidence or propriety to state, that he had by his will bequeathed to the College of Physicians and Surgeons *sixteen lots of ground*, in the neighborhood of Seventieth street and Eighth avenue, to be appropriated in any manner that might best subserve the interests of the College.

* Drs. Buck and Delafield.

He had also made provision, to the amount of *four hundred thousand dollars* for the establishment of an hospital, in connection with the College, in the same neighborhood. On the breaking out of the war, however, fearing lest in consequence of the anticipated depreciation of real estate, and all other property, he might not be able to make that provision for his family which he desired, he changed his purpose, and revoked these munificent bequests. Who can fail to honor the intention, even though, from the force of circumstances, it was not possible to put it in execution?

In 1860, in company with an intimate friend, Dr. J. O. Smith, he revisited Europe, passing through England, Scotland, and Ireland, and some of the principal cities of the Continent; he also visited the recent battle-fields of Solferino and Magenta. This tour occupied about eight months, and he returned in buoyant health and spirits; which condition, unfortunately, was destined not to be of long duration.

After the capture of Fort Sumter, and the full inauguration of the war, his mind became depressed at the gloomy prospect of disunion, with all its concomitant evils; yet was he, as before remarked, among the foremost to volunteer his services in an organization for the relief of sick and wounded soldiers, the "Soldiers' Lint and Bandage Society," and the "Surgical Aid Society." In these Associations he was an active member, contributing largely of his time and money. The care of his large estate also increased his anxiety, in connection with the impending crisis, and the uncer-

tainties of the future. Our friend then learned to realize the truth of the Roman maxim:

"Crescentem sequitur cura pecuniam."

Yet, with this load of care pressing upon him, he retained the appearance of robust health, and the freshness which had characterized his features since the period of early manhood.

In August, 1862, a change occurred: he began to complain of dyspeptic symptoms; his mental depression increased; his family noticed, at intervals, some difficulty of articulation, and an unsteadiness in his gait. In the early part of September, he consulted a medical friend, Dr. A. Du Bois, who thought that symptoms of oxaluria were present, which opinion was confirmed by microscopic examinations of the renal excretion. Under slight medication, with the use of nitric acid, and attention to his diet, he improved in health and spirits, and so continued for three weeks. After this time his depression of mind increased, and in November, the symptoms of oxaluria reäppearing in an aggravated form, Dr. Alonzo Clark was called in consultation, who suggested the use of nitro-muriatic acid, both internally and by pediluvia. Under this treatment he did not improve, but with a settled despondency, approaching nearly to despair, his appetite almost entirely failed, food became loathsome to him, and it was difficult to persuade him to partake of even the slightest nourishment. It was evident to all who saw him that he must soon perish from inanition. His strength now rapidly declined, until at the end of

December, a few hours before the close of the dying year, he gently breathed his last.—Thus passed away from earth, at the age of fifty-five years, a man of generous impulses, of high social position, favored by fortune, esteemed by his fellow-men; truly, a man of honor and of noble aspirations.

His obsequies were of a most impressive character. St. Bartholomew's Church was filled with afflicted relatives and sympathizing friends. The Academy of Medicine attended in a body; and delegations from the numerous Associations with which the deceased had been connected, were present to testify their respect for his memory. The solemn and beautiful service for the dead was performed by the Rev. Dr. Cook, assisted by Rev. Dr. Gallaudet, and the anthem, "I know that my Redeemer liveth," was sung with great feeling, and most impressive effect. His remains were deposited in Trinity Cemetery, in the family vault,* provided by his own pious care, and to which he had caused to be removed, under his own supervision, from their former resting-place at Harsenville, the remains of his ancestors for three generations. There they now sleep, among the scenes of his boyhood, on the banks of that noble river, in quiet repose, until the morning of the resurrection.

In reviewing the life and career of our departed Fel-

* The family vault, erected by his grandfather, in the rear of the church at Harsenville, having been found unsuitable for burial purposes, owing to the dampness of the soil, Dr. Harsen purchased ground, and had constructed a large vault in Trinity Cemetery, at One Hundred and Fifty-fifth street, near Manhattanville. This cemetery will probably be secure from any encroachments for building purposes for many generations.

low, let us dwell for a moment upon some of their most prominent characteristics.

Of his filial devotion we have already spoken, more especially as a son and a brother. This trait of his character was most signally manifested, during the protracted illness of his parents, not less than in the almost paternal regard for his sisters and their families in subsequent years.

He had a nice sense of honor, combined with the strictest regard for truth; he was ever ready to defend the right, and to make sacrifices in a good cause. Though, from natural temperament, habitually cautious, yet when he felt it to be his duty to act, he allowed no considerations to interpose an obstacle; he was ready to take the consequences, be they what they might. Not speculative, his sense of justice upon general matters, and upon the relations of others, was so clear in degree, and so boldly expressed, as is rarely met with in this time-serving and selfish age. Endowed with a large fortune, he was neither ostentatious nor extravagant, but, while enjoying his income in a very quiet manner, he sought out the best means of benefiting his fellow-creatures.

He was a large-hearted and charitable man. During his life, his donations to useful and benevolent objects were liberal, freely offered, and not often made public; by his will, he bequeaths the sum of sixty thousand dollars, in legacies to different societies and institutions. To the New-York Eye Infirmary he left the sum of ten thousand dollars; to the Northern Dispensary, ten thousand dollars; and a like sum to the

New-York Society for the Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men. The Managers of the two former Associations have evinced their appreciation of these bequests by monumental memorials — the Eye Infirmary having procured a marble bust of the donor in the best style of Müller; while the Northern Dispensary has erected a marble tablet, with his profile, by Launitz, in medallion.

He was a man of sound judgment, as was evinced in the management of his ordinary affairs. He also possessed, in a high degree, that intuitive recognition of truth and propriety, quite independent of the reasoning power, to which we give the name of common-sense.

His understanding was clear and comprehensive, combined with much mental activity; yet cautiousness, not less than activity, was a prominent feature. In his judgment of mankind he was discriminating, with a happy faculty of adapting himself to circumstances.

He had sound views of finance, and by his general information, personal influence, and energy, love of system, indefatigable industry, with inflexible integrity was peculiarly fitted for the office of a counsellor, and director in public institutions.

In his manners he was courteous, always of gentlemanly bearing, combined with a noble presence; never speaking ill of his neighbor; with intimate friends, a boon companion; cautious and reserved in his intercourse with the world at large. Of an equable temperament and amiable disposition, yet was he easily disturbed, and was extremely sensitive to public

opinion. Social in his habits, and fond of general society, yet he retained through life a constitutional diffidence. He never married.

All who knew him will bear testimony to his unblemished honor and truthfulness, his ready sympathy with every good and generous object, his abhorrence of all injustice and wrong, no less than to his fidelity to his friends, his scorn of meanness, and, above all, his courage in saying and doing what he felt to be right. He had been trained in that old-fashioned school, in which truth and honor, loyalty and disinterestedness, are cherished as the foundations of manly virtues. Would that its teachings were more heeded in our country at this crisis of its history!

The even tenor of his life was disturbed by few of the calamities which ordinarily fall to the lot of mortals; he was happy in the quiet enjoyment of his possessions, and in the esteem of his fellow-men.

Such, is a very imperfect outline of the character of him whose loss we now deplore; such, the example he has left for our imitation. The cold portals of the tomb have closed over his mortal body, in silence and in darkness; but they cannot shut out the remembrance of his good deeds, nor obscure the brightness of his example.

And when we also, my brethren, shall have closed our pilgrimage, and have passed away from earth for ever, may it then be said of each and every one of us, as we can with truth now testify of our departed friend and brother:

"Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit."

Testimonials.

The following Testimonials, in appreciation of his worth, and so full of sympathy with his surviving relatives, will not be deemed out of place in this connection.

Testimonials.

NEW-YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

Whereas, It has pleased the Great Disposer of human events, in his inscrutable providence, to remove from us by death our Fellow, JACOB HARSEN, M.D., in the prime of life, and full tide of useful labor, therefore,

Resolved, That in the decease of Dr. HARSEN this Academy mourns the loss of an honored Fellow, and this community, of a great public benefactor. Blessed by a kind Providence with large wealth, inherited from his ancestors, he dispensed it with a liberal hand, in the promotion of the great interests of science and humanity. "To raise the fallen, to succor the wounded and distressed, to minister to the neglected, to visit the forsaken, to remember the forgotten," was the peaceful and pleasant mission of daily life. His native city will long cherish the memory of one of her most worthy sons, while the remembrance of his distinguished philanthropy, his whole-souled benevolence, his unostentatious charity, will enshrine him in the hearts of the profession of which he was an honored member.

Resolved, That this Academy most sincerely sympathizes with his afflicted and large circle of devoted friends in this great bereavement.

Resolved, That, as mourners, we will, in a body, attend his funeral.

Resolved, That our Secretary be requested to transmit to the relatives of the deceased, a copy of these resolutions.

(Signed) J. G. ADAMS, M.D.,
G. BUCK, M.D.,
B. OGDEN, M.D.

NEW-YORK, January 3, 1863.

NEW-YORK SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF MEDICAL MEN.

At a stated quarterly meeting of the Board of Managers, held on the 20th day of March, 1863, the Vice President, Dr. H. D. Bulkley, announced the decease, since the last meeting, of Dr. Jacob Harsen, late First Vice-President, and for several years a member of the Board,

Whereupon, on motion, Drs. Du Bois, Anderson, and Adams were appointed a committee to draw up a minute in commemoration of the event, and it was ordered that a copy thereof be sent to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That this Board enter upon their records the recent death of Dr. Jacob Harsen, late First Vice-President, for a long series of years an active and valuable member of the Board of Managers, and a liberal contributor in furtherance of its benevolent objects.

In performing this melancholy service, your Committee cannot do justice to their own feelings, nor to the memory of the departed, without bearing testimony to the loss which this Society, with the community, has sustained, in the removal of one so beloved as a man, so greatly respected as a member of society, and so actively devoted to the interests of this Association.

In his spirit and intercourse kind and genial, in his views and influence highly conservative, in his official trusts diligent, self-sacrificing, and liberal; an honored member of an honorable profession, Dr. Harsen has left a void in this community which is deeply felt, and not easily filled.

The Board wish to record with grateful hearts, as worthy of all remembrance, the munificent legacy bequeathed by the deceased in aid of the benevolent object of our Society, and also desire to express their sympathy with the bereaved relatives of the departed in their great affliction.

Abram Du Bois,
James Anderson,
John G. Adams,
} *Committee.*

NEW-YORK EYE INFIRMARY.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the New-York Eye Infirmary, held at the Institution, on Wednesday, January 14, 1863, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted, and ordered to be published in the daily papers of this city:

Resolved, That by the decease of Dr. Jacob Harsen, our late First Vice-President, on the thirty-first day of December last, the New-York Eye Infirmary has sustained the loss of a most influential and faithful officer, whose untiring zeal and active interest on behalf of the Institution have contributed largely to its usefulness and success.

Resolved, That this Board desire hereby to express their profound respect and esteem for their late associate, whose well-directed energies and practical benevolence have been so generously and efficiently engaged in promoting the prosperity of this and other kindred institutions in our city, and whose premature removal, by death, we regard not only as a personal but a public bereavement.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate to the family of the deceased a copy of these resolutions, with the assurance of our heartfelt sympathy in their affliction.

Thomas House Taylor, *President.*

Abram Du Bois, *Secretary.*

NORTHERN DISPENSARY.

At a regular meeting of the Trustees, held at the Dispensary buildings, this evening, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, It having pleased our Heavenly Father to remove from this world, after a comparative brief but severe illness, our long-beloved friend and worthy President, Jacob Harsen, M.D.; therefore,

Resolved, That we, the members of this Board, who have been so long and intimately associated with our deceased friend in this beneficent charity, and witnesses of his devotion and zeal, always manifested in its welfare, and that of

kindred and many institutions, in this his native city, having for their object the improvement of our race, desire to express the genuine and sincere sense of the loss we experience in this melancholy and mysterious dispensation.

Resolved, That we desire to express our admiration of the superior and highly-cultivated endowments of mind of our deceased friend, enriched with stores of learning, and improved by the study and critical observation of men, manners, and things, in the course of repeated and extended travels in foreign lands.

Resolved, That in the death of our friend, we feel that this, his native city, has lost one of her most estimable and noble sons, this Institution one of its best benefactors, society one of its brightest ornaments, the poor a kind, generous, and often unknown friend, his surviving sisters and their families a loss to them irreparable, and that we tender to them our sympathy and condolence in this their sad affliction.

Resolved, That this Board, as a body, attend the funeral to-morrow, and that our Secretary suitably engross and send a copy of these resolutions to the sisters and family.

HENRY A. MORGAN, *Secretary*.

NEW-YORK, January 2, 1863.

NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

AT a meeting of the New-York Historical Society, held at its Hall this evening,

Mr. James W. Gerard, after some remarks, submitted the following preamble and resolutions, which were seconded by the Rev. Samuel Osgood, D.D., and adopted:

The New-York Historical Society having been informed of the death, since its last meeting, of Dr. JACOB HARSEN, one of its life-members, it is, therefore,

Resolved, That while this event has taken from the community a citizen of high character, active philanthropy, and sterling worth, and has bereaved his own family, of an affectionate and justly-beloved relative, it has deprived this

Society of an esteemed associate, whose presence has often added interest to its meetings, and whose decease it records with sad remembrance of the loss it has sustained.

Resolved, That an anthenticated copy of this minute be communicated to the family of Dr. Harsen.

Extract from the minutes.

Andrew Warner, *Rec. Sec.*

New-York, January 6, 1863.

ST. NICHOLAS SOCIETY.

At a stated meeting of the Saint Nicholas Society of the City of New-York, held on the fifth day of March, A.D., 1863, the following preamble and resolutions, offered by John G. Adams, M.D., were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, Since the last meeting of this Society, by a mysterious dispensation of Divine Providence, our esteemed fellow-member, Jacob Harsen, M.D., has been suddenly removed from us by death, in the prime of life and in the midst of his usefulness; therefore,

Resolved, That in the decease of Dr. Harsen the Saint Nicholas Society is called upon to deplore the loss of one of its oldest and most valued members, and one preëminently devoted to the advancement of its interests. Called by a vote of the Society, at various periods, to fill the office of physician, member of the Board of Officers, and Vice-President, he discharged the duties incumbent upon him with conscientious fidelity. A true son of New-York, he devoted his large wealth to the promotion of the great interests of science and humanity in his native city. A representative of the old Knickerbocker stock, New-York will long cherish the memory of one of her most worthy sons, while his distinguished philanthropy, his whole-souled benevolence, his unostentatious, open-handed charity, will enshrine his memory in the hearts of all.

Resolved, That this Society extends its heartfelt sympathy to the large circle of relatives and friends upon whom this great affliction has fallen.

Resolved, That our Secretary transmit to the family of the deceased a copy of these resolutions.

Extract from the minutes.

R. E. Mount, Jr., *Secretary.*

UNITED STATES TRUST COMPANY.

At a meeting of the Trustees of the United States Trust Company of New-York, held on the eighth day of January, 1863, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted, to wit:

Since our last meeting, intelligence has been communicated of the death of Dr. Jacob Harsen, a member of the Board from the first organization of the Institution to the time of his decease. He was a native of this city, and was largely identified with its charitable and financial institutions. He was prompt in the discharge of his duties, generous and warm-hearted in his charities, and, in the various relations of life, has furnished an example which should not be wholly lost to the community. With the view of recording our appreciation of his high qualities as a citizen and as a member of this Board,

Resolved, That in the death of Dr. Jacob Harsen this Institution has suffered the loss of a wise and prudent counsellor, and the community a public-spirited and enlightened citizen.

Resolved, That this Board deeply sympathize with the family of deceased in the loss they have sustained, and that a copy of this preamble and of these resolutions be presented to them by the Secretary, and that they be entered on the minutes.

John A. Stewart, *Secretary.*

MANHATTAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

At a stated meeting of the Board of Directors of the Manhattan Life Insurance Company, held this day, at the office of the Company, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted, namely:

Whereas, it has pleased the all-wise Ruler of events, in the dispensation of his Providence, to remove from among us by death, our late associate in this Board, JACOB HARSEN, M.D. therefore,

Resolved, That, while bowing with submission to this dispensation of divine wisdom, we must nevertheless regret his loss as an intelligent member of this Board, a wise counsellor, a warm friend, a kind benefactor, and eminently a high-minded and honorable man.

Resolved, That we condole with his friends and relatives in this their affliction, and point to that never-failing source of consolation, which the world can neither give nor take away.

Resolved, That a copy of this preamble and resolution be presented to the immediate family of the deceased.

C. Y. WEMPLE, *Secretary*.

NEW-YORK, January 13, 1863.

GREENWICH SAVINGS BANK.

AT a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Greenwich Savings Bank, held on Friday evening, January 2, 1863, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The Lord and Giver of Life has, in his inscrutable wisdom, removed by death our highly-respected friend and associate, JACOB HARSEN, M.D., First Vice-President of this Institution; and,

Whereas, It is eminently due to his memory and virtues, and the elevated position held by him in this Board and in the community, that we should, on this occasion, give some expression of our regret at the great loss sustained in his decease, not only by the Greenwich Savings Bank, but by the many other charitable and useful institutions with which he was connected, and that we should fitly recognize the exuberant philanthropy which inspired him through so many years of a useful and honored life, to devote every energy of a gifted mind and kind heart to the best interests of his fellow-men, therefore,

Resolved, That in the death of JACOB HARSEN, the Greenwich Savings Bank has lost one of its most worthy and influential supporters. Long connected with the Institution, as Trustee, member of the Finance Committee, and Vice-President, in adverse as well as in prosperous periods, his uncommon prudence and sagacity, unusual foresight and unceasing labors, have greatly contributed to its present sound, elevated, and prosperous condition; and while we can not adequately express our deep sense of the loss sustained by his decease, we gratefully recognize in him an example of uniform and consistent devotion to the welfare of his fellow-men, which all would do well to emulate. While his urbanity of manner, his great erudition, and capacious intellect might have led him to aspire to the most lofty stations, the honors of which his ancestral wealth would have enabled him worthily to support, he chose to devote the resources of his cultivated mind, and the affluence of his fortune, to the relief of the distressed and the benefit of all whom his far-reaching humanity could bless.

Resolved, That, as a mark of respect for the deceased, and of our deep sense of the loss which this Institution has sustained, this Board will in a body attend his funeral.

Resolved, That the foregoing preamble and resolutions be entered at length upon the minutes of the Board, and a copy thereof, signed by the President and Secretaries, be transmitted to the family of the deceased, as an expression of our sympathy and condolence. D. A. CUSHMAN, *President.*

W. R. VERMILYE, }
JOHN S. DICKERSON, } *Secretaries.*

FIREMEN'S INSURANCE COMPANY.

AT a meeting of the Directors of this Company, held on the 7th instant, the death of our late associate was announced, and the following action was had thereupon:

Whereas, Since the last meeting of the Board, we have had intelligence of the death of Dr. JACOB HARSEN, for many years past a member of this Board; and,

Whereas, It is fit and proper that we should record our

high appreciation of the character of the deceased, as a liberal, high-toned citizen, as well as a valuable member of this Board;

Resolved, That the Board have heard with profound sorrow of the death of Dr. Harsen.

Resolved, That the Board deeply sympathize with the family of the deceased in their bereavement, and that a copy of this preamble and of these resolutions be communicated to them by the Secretary, and that they be entered on the minutes.

Permit me to add to this official record my own expression of sympathy and condolence, in this hour of your sorrow, for I too, in this death, have lost a friend to whom I had become deeply attached, and from whom I have received many manifestations of kindness and regard.

Trusting that not only these expressions of hearts which sympathize may be multiplied unto you, but that the richer, sweeter "consolations of grace" may also "abound" unto you, I remain yours, J. V. Harriott, *Secretary*.

New-York, Jan. 18, 1863.

From The Home Journal of January 17, 1863.

OBITUARY.

Died on the thirty-first of December, 1862, Jacob Harsen, M.D.

The old year was drawing its last breath, breathing its last sigh, when a noble spirit passed from its earthly dwelling to a mansion of blessedness on high. "A man more pure and just was never born into the earth." In all the relations of life, actuated by the most lofty principles, and guided by a sound judgment, he was a glorious example of the beauty of consistency. Constantly engaged in works of benevolence and love, he did, without ostentation, his Heavenly Father's will. Possessed of an ample fortune, which would have enabled him to vie in pomp and vanity with any of the fashionable, he eschewed its follies, and turned to pursuits more ennobling to the soul. His refined and cultivated taste was manifested in

his possession of works of art, selected at home and abroad, not for display, but to encourage art and gratify his own inherent love of the beautiful. He sought no public honors; when offered to him, he refused them with quiet dignity, having no desire to enjoy the plaudits of the public. Fulfilling all the sacred duties of a loving relative in domestic life, he was the honored head of a family, now sorely bereaved. As we listened to the last services that were performed at his grave, in Trinity Cemetery, we thanked God that such as he had been permitted to live among us, and stimulate us to good works. It is a scene we can never forget: the peaceful resting-place, with its garment of snow; the sun just setting behind the hills; the moon, with its pale, clear light, touching with quiet beauty all around; and the last sad tokens of affection and respect shown to one so worthy of remembrance and imitation.

"His memory long will live alone
In all our hearts, as mournful light,
That broods above the fallen sun,
And dwells in heaven half the night."

—Carleton.

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